A

BRIEF ACCOUNT

Of the Commitment of the Earl of Sh.

And the Crimes laid to his Charge.

IT has been much admir'd at by the moſt ſober and conſidering part of the Nation, that thoſe who came in theſe three years paſt to diſcover a curſed Deſign againſt his Sacred Majeſties Life and Government, ſhould be moſt intimate with Perſons diſcontented, and notoriouſly diſſaffected with his Majeſties Government both in Church and State; Nay, ſhould be ſupported and mantain'd, if not Inſtructed and Catechiz'd by them in all their meaſures and Proceedings. And indeed 'tis very ſtrange, that no Informer yet appear'd to diſcover the *Plot* either in *England* or *Ireland*, but firſt he made his Addreſs to the E. of *S*—— before he apply'd himſelf to King or Councel: For 'tis plain, neither his Lordſhips Loyalty, (which always ſeem'd retrograde, but when he Govern'd all; nor his Religion, which in all the Revolutions of his time, he meaſur'd ſtill by his Intereſt,) could invite theſe Informers to him, more than to other Peers of the Realm. But now People begin to find out the Myſtery, and are pretty well ſatisfyed, that his Lordſhip did not promote the Diſcovery of the *Popiſh* Plot out of any extraordinary Zeal he had for the good either of the King or Kingdom, but was reſolv'd to make a good hand of this Helliſh Conſpiracy, to advance another of his own: But our little VVeathercock of State made a Pit, and dig'd it, and is fallen into the Ditch which he made. Thoſe very Witneſſes, whom he ſo much extoll'd for the Saviours of both Kingdoms, and endeavour'd to perſwade to Swear againſt her Sacred Majeſty, and his Royal Highneſs, have of late poſitively ſworn Treaſon, or rather a heap of Treaſons againſt himſelf; the ſum whereof is as follows.

I. *That he has imagined to compaſs and procure the Death of the* King, *and the Subverſion of the Government, and of the known Laws of the Land, by reducing this antient Monarchy into a Republick.*

II. *That he uſed great endeavours to poſſeſs the People that His Majeſty is a* Papiſt, *and deſigns to introduce* Popery *and* Arbitrary Power; *and to that end has promoted ſeveral Seditious and Treaſonable* Libels *againſt His Majeſties Perſon and Government, purpoſely to bring His Majeſty into an* odium *and Contempt with his loving Subjects.*

III. *That He endeavour'd to Levy War againſt the* King *both in* England *&* Ireland, *and bring Blood-ſhed and Confuſion upon His Majeſties good People, under pretence of proſecuting the* Popiſh Plot, *and preſerving the* Proteſtant Religion, *the* Liberty *and* Property *of the* Subject, *as He and his Confederates have done in the late Rebellion.*

IV. *That He endeavour'd to render the* Church of England *as Ridiculous as* Popery, *and Defam'd all His Majeſties Officers both by Land and Sea; and all others, who out of a due ſenſe of* Loyalty *adhere to the* Crown, *ſtiling them* Tories, Tantivies, Maſqueraders, *&c. purpoſely to frighten them from their Duty, and wean them from their* Sovereign, *to adhere to Him and His* Faction.

V. *That He countenanced, harbour'd, and hired Perſons to ſwear againſt the* Queen, *and His* Royal Highneſs.

VI. *That He procur'd ſeveral ſums of Money to be Raiſed and Collected to carry on theſe moſt abominable Deſigns.*

This Charge is made out againſt his Lordſhip by 15. Perſons of as good Credi and Reputation as any of thoſe his Lordſhip ſo much extolled and admired whi they ſwore as he would have them; Four are *Iriſh*, the reſt *Engliſh*; and all kno Proteſtants of the Church of *England*; And ſeveral of them were lately eſteem by his Lordſhip very fit Perſons to ſwear againſt the *Queen* and His *Royal Highne* Yet perhaps they muſt not be thought of ſufficient Credit now againſt ſuch a tru Proteſtant, who was as Zealous to ſuppreſs Popery in 79. as he was to promo it in 72. and *Polypus*-like in all the Changes and Revolutions of the Governmen always appear'd of the ſame Religion with the Faction or Party he eſpouſed.

'Tis well known, that whoſoever ſwears for the Presbyterians, (though hire for that purpoſe,) muſt be cryed up for a Saint, and a Saviour of the Nation: B if ever he is touched with any Remorſe of Conſcience, and thereupon diſcov the Villanous Practices of that Party, He is immediately Metamorphos'd into t greateſt of Villains, and worſt of Perjurers. And 'tis very obſervable, that amo the Brethren there is a Common Purſe made, and a Swearing Office erected, whe all Perſons that have Conſcience large enough to ſwallow any Oaths, and ſwe what their Benefactors pleaſe, are frankly entertained and liberally Rewarded.

But above all, 'tis worth the enquiring after, what Motives can induce the God Congregations to be ſo free of their Purſe to the *Iriſh Evidence*, who are know Papiſts, Prieſts and Fryars? For the Conſpiracy in *Ireland* (as they tell Us,) w *To bring in the* French, *and cut the Throats of all the* Proteſtants *in that Kingdo* VVhat Reaſon then have the *Fanaticks* of *England* to be ſo liberal to the Diſco rers of that PLOT, when the very Parties concern'd, (the *Proteſtants* of *Irela* never gave them a Farthing? Is it poſſible the *Engliſh Fanaticks*, can be more co cern'd for the ſafety of the *Iriſh Proteſtants*, than They Themſelves? Or that *Pooteſtants* of that Kingdom could be ſo ſtupid, as not to conſider theſe Diſcove that ſav'd their Throats from a General Maſſacre, if they believ'd there was ſuch Deſign in Agitation? As for my part, let the world believe what they ple I am certain, the Brethren do not part with their Money for nothing; and I affraid there lies a Snake in the Graſs, as I hope will ſhortly be found out.

In the *interim* our great Patriot is ſent to the *Tower*, and kept cloſe Priſoner the foreſaid Crimes; And 'tis ſaid, that laſt *Saturday* morning, when the Serjean Arms went to Apprehend him, and deſired his Lordſhip to eat ſomething befor appeared before the King and Council, the Earl replied, He had no ſtomach to unleſs he could get a roaſted *Iriſh*-man; which others hearing, they anſwered, N was fitter for his Lordſhips Table, than his own Creature and Precurſor Mr. *Fi Harris*; and had his Lordſhip come but the day before, he might have overta him at *Tyburn*. But if his Lordſhips Appetite ſtill continues, he may perhaps e're lo have his belly full of his dear Pupil Mr. *Hetherington*.

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